

## PENSION MONEY DUE TO INMATES OF GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL FOR INSANE.

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FEBRUARY 23, 1904.—Ordered to be printed.

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Mr. McCUMBER, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the  
following

### REPORT.

[To accompany S. 3781.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3781) relating to the payment and disposition of pension money due to inmates of the Government Hospital for the Insane, recommend the passage of said bill and submit the following:

The Secretary of the Interior, in his annual report for the year 1903, at page 181, in discussing the needs of the Government Hospital for the Insane, submits the report of the board of visitors, wherein in discussing the legislative needs of the hospital they are set forth in the following language:

Your attention is also respectfully called to the necessity for amending the law relating to the disposition of pensions of patients who have been admitted to the hospital from the National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers who have no dependent relatives. The law now provides that in all such cases the pension shall be paid to the superintendent for the support of the patient and be credited to the general support appropriation without regard to the amount. When these pensions are credited to the general fund of the hospital, they can not be used for the special benefit of the patient, and as the regular charge for board is \$5 per week, the pension in some instances exceeds this amount. In all cases it is desirable that at least a portion of the pension should be available for special use of the patient for small purchases which the hospital can not ordinarily supply. It is therefore recommended that the law be so amended as to permit all pensions of patients to be paid to the superintendent while the pensioners are inmates of the hospital, and that he be authorized to use the pension, under regulations established by yourself, for the benefit, first, of any dependent relatives under the law, and second, for the patient himself, the regular charge for board alone being credited to the general fund of the hospital in such cases as may be determined to be proper. The law should also authorize the disposition of such funds accruing from this source in case of deceased pensioners which are unclaimed, and of which a considerable amount is now accumulated.

Pursuant to the foregoing recommendation, a copy of the bill herein reported was submitted by the Secretary of the Interior to the chair-

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man of this committee, which was transmitted with the following letter:

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of my annual report to the President of the operations of this Department for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1903, and to commend to your early and favorable consideration the recommendation therein contained on pages 181-182 in relation to the enactment of necessary legislation governing the payment and disposition of pension moneys due to inmates of the Government Hospital for the Insane. On page 285 of the appendix to my report will be found a form of bill (separate copy also herewith inclosed for convenience) which, if enacted into law, will operate equitably toward pensioners, their wives, minor children, and dependent parents, and will be acceptable to the superintendent of the Government Hospital for the Insane.

Very respectfully,

E. A. HITCHCOCK.

HON. PORTER J. McCUMBER,  
*Chairman Committee on Pensions, United States Senate.*

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